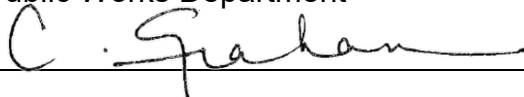




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	January 20, 2023
SUBJECT:	Hamilton Aviary Temporary Closure (City Wide) (ES23003)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Cynthia Graham Acting Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to provide an update on the recent temporary closure of the Hamilton Aviary located at 85 Oak Knoll Drive.

The Hamilton Aviary is home to 27 exotic birds that are well cared for by the volunteer group [Friends of the Aviary](#). Volunteers visit regularly to ensure the birds are cared for, and operate the Aviary which provide education and engagement within the community and as a part of their regular operations, members of the public are invited to visit the facility.

Between November 2022 and January 2023 two birds passed away - Kerrie, a red-lored parrot and Sydney, a Senegal parrot. The post mortem assessment provided by the veterinarian in January for Kerrie indicated the bird tested positive for Mycobacteriosis. Mycobacteriosis is the term used to describe the disease seen in a number of species including birds, mammals and fish caused by a variety of mycobacterial infections. The veterinarian is in the process of testing to see what strain it is and has performed a post mortem on Sydney. Lab results require time to culture the bacteria, so results are not yet known.

Based on this information, the Aviary is closed to the public to allow volunteers and staff to focus on extensive environmental cleaning procedures and ensure no other birds have been infected. Although Mycobacterium Avian Complex can be found in birds and various other animal species, as well as the environment, it poses very low risk to humans.

As lab results become available and reviewed with staff, volunteers and the veterinarian, a management plan will be developed to ensure proper care is provided for the birds. Once the Aviary is open to public visitors again, this will be communicated through the City's social media channels.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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For further information please contact Robyn Pollard, Manager of Forestry and Horticulture by phone at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3919, or by email at Robyn.Pollard@hamilton.ca

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A